



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,738	08/25/2003	Jay Shaughnessy	200310827-1	2300

22879 7590 05/14/2007
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

KENDALL, CHUCK O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2192

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

05/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/647,738

Applicant(s)

SHAUGHNESSY ET AL.

Examiner

Chuck O. Kendall

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the Application filed 08/25/03.
2. Claims 1 – 13 have been examined.

Specification

3. The use of the trademark Java has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blevins US 2004/0221261 A1.

Regarding claim 1, on computer readable media, a computer program set for running in a J2EE environment including an application server and message-driven beans, said program set comprising:

software agents, each of which incorporates a respective message-driven bean (Figure 1, 114 for EJB);

configuration data external to said software agents for determining dependencies among said software agents so that an output of a first of said software agents can serve as an input to a second of said software agents (Figure 5, see 500,506,508, also see Figure 4, see 402 and 408 and all associated text); and

an agent server for implementing said agents and said dependencies, said agent server being coupled to said application server, said software agents, and said configuration data (6,0084, see dependencies and plug-in bean).

Regarding claim 2, a computer program set as recited in claim 1 wherein said software agents include an invoker agent for receiving task requests from a client external to said agent server (Figure, 1, see 100 for task and all associated text).

Regarding claim 3, a computer program set as recited in claim 2 wherein said invoker agent selects said second agent for executing a task specified in said task request (See, for tasks and request 0059).

Regarding claim 4, a computer program set as recited in claim 3 wherein said invoker selects said second agent as a function of said configuration data (0052, see invoke exception handler, Examiner interprets this as an equivalent function).

Regarding claim 5, a computer program set as recited in claim 3 wherein said invoker agent determines said second agent has a prerequisite for executing said task, said invoker agent determining whether or not said prerequisite is met by said request and if said prerequisite is met, invoking said second agent, and if said prerequisite is not met, invoking said first agent of said agents, said third agent being invoked to meet said prerequisite (0080, see prerequisites and dependencies).

Regarding claim 6, a computer program set as recited in claim 5 wherein said invoker agent selects said first agent as a function of said configuration data (0084, see configuration and get dependency method).

Regarding claim 7, a computer program set as recited in claim 5 wherein said first agent invokes said second agent once said prerequisite is met (0084, see load dependencies).

Regarding claim 8, a computer program set as recited in claim 2 further comprising a database, said invoker agent storing said request in said database (Figure 1, 122, see Database store 120 and all associated text).

Regarding claim 9, a computer program set as recited in claim 8 wherein each of said agents stores its status in said database (0060, see task status).

Regarding claim 10, a computer program set as recited in claim 1 wherein said agent server provides for configurable error handling, said configuration data specifying configurations for said error handling (0052, see invoke exception handler).

Regarding claim 11, Blevins anticipates a computer-implemented method comprising:

a first software agent incorporating a first message-driven bean receiving a first message requesting a second software agent incorporating a second message-driven bean to achieve a goal (Figure 1, see RMI EJB component 114);

said first software agent examining configuration data external to said first and second software agents to determine if said second software agent has any prerequisites that are not met by said first message (0080, see prerequisites and dependencies);

if not, said first software agent invoking said second software agent by sending a second message to said second software agent (0080, see if prerequisites are not available); and

if yes, said first software agent examining configuration data external to said first and second software agents to identify a third software agent incorporating a third

message-driven bean that meets a prerequisite of said second software agent that is not met by said request and then invokes said third software agent by sending a third message to it (0080, see prerequisites and dependencies).

Regarding claim 12, a method as recited in claim 11 wherein, if, when it is determined that said second software agent has prerequisites that are not met by first message, if said prerequisites are also not met by said third software agent, said third software agent invoking a fourth software agent incorporating a fourth message-driven bean agent that meets another prerequisite of said second software agent (Figure 1, 114 for EJB, also see 0080-0084 and all other associated text, Examiner interprets this to be equivalent functionality).

Regarding claim 13, a method as recited in claim 11 wherein, if, when it is determined that said second software agent has prerequisites that are not met by first message, if said prerequisites are also not met by said third software agent, said first software agent also invoking a fourth software agent incorporating a fourth message-driven bean agent that meets another prerequisite of said second software agent, said fourth software agent being invoked in parallel with said third software agent (see 0080-0084, for prerequisite and dependencies when available and not available).

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2192

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck Kendall whose telephone number is 571-272-3698. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chuck Kendall *askio107*